

# Morton Borders to \$3800

By CATHERINE MILLER

**M**ORTON stud's 34th annual ram sale at Lucindale on Thursday last week was full of highlights, setting stud record averages set for its Border Leicester, Poll Dorset and Super Cross offerings.

The sale drew the largest contingent of utes and trailers seen on the property for many years. The 60 registered bidders – 10 more than the previous year – were from South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

In the overall result 209 stud and flock rams from the three breeds sold at auction in a 94 per cent clearance, averaging \$1345.

Stud Border Leicesters produced the sale's top price of \$3800 paid by Matthew Gabbe, Gymbowen, Horsham, Victoria.

He selected a July 2010-drop twin and said he liked the "structure and good wool attributes of the ram".

Martin Hann, Nampara Pastoral Company, Penola, paid \$3500 for a great woolly ram which was third in his class at this year's Royal Adelaide Show.

The six stud Border Leicester rams averaged \$2850 and sold as far afield as Grenfell, NSW.

Early in the sale it was clear that most in the packed bidding gallery were taking the last chance of the season to secure Border Leicester flock rams, with a total clearance of 100 at a \$1630 average – up \$650 on 2010.

Just 19 Border flock rams made less than \$1500.

The Millicent area was particularly strong, including JB Gilbertson, who bought six at a \$1883 average, including the \$2200 top-price flock ram.

Also buying at the top-end GT&KT Fisher, Clover Ridge, Marcollat, took seven at a \$2043 average.

One of the highlights was the

## Sale summary

Border Leicester flock rams		
	2011	2010
■ Offered	100	99
■ Sold	100	94
■ Top	\$2200	
■ Av	\$1630	\$977

Poll Dorset flock rams		
	2011	2010
■ Offered	97	102
■ Sold	84	96
■ Top	\$1500	\$2000
■ Av	\$940	\$931

SAMM-Border Leicester rams		
	2011	2010
■ Offered	13	20
■ Sold	13	19
■ Top	\$2300	\$1450
■ Av	\$1900	\$1050

third offering of SAMM-Border Leicester (Super Cross) rams bred to use over first-cross ewes for good prime lambs and replacement ewes. These 13 rams topped at \$2300 averaging an exceptional \$1900. Tony Mackereth, Padthaway was the volume buyer with seven including the top-price Super Cross.

Poll Dorset stud ram enquiry was quiet but the flock ram buyers were prepared to up the ante on these rams, with all seven stud rams making a \$1857 average.

The flock ram average jumped \$10 on last year to \$940, but there was also some of the best value-buying for the ram-selling season, some rams selling well under the odds between \$700 and \$900. A few large orders ensured a very satisfactory 87pc clearance.

Long-time sale supporters S&R DiGiorgio, Lucindale bought nine Poll Dorset rams including two in the stud section at \$1500 and \$1600.

But it was Southern Australian Livestock Naracoorte agent Alistair

Haynes who put a floor in the Dorset offering, taking 20 rams at a \$960 average for SAL's North West branch, Port Lincoln. Stud principal John Corbin described the day as a "wonderful" Border Leicester sale. He said he was thrilled with the growing demand for his Super Cross rams and would continue to increase the offering of them.

Morton had three rams reserved for the Horsham Border Leicester Show & Sale on November 7, and would have an as-yet unselected group of summer-drop Poll Dorset rams available in December, he said.

Elders and Landmark conducted the sale with Tom Dennis and Gordon Wood auctioneers.

**TOP BORDER:** Morton stud's Emily Davidson holds the \$3800 top-price Border Leicester ram at Morton's annual on-property sale. Also pictured is the buyer Matthew Gabbe, Jilro stud, Gymbowen, Victoria and Elders Naracoorte livestock manager Tom Dennis.



# Suffolks stretch to \$842 av on KI

By CARLA WIESE-SMITH

**SUFFOLK** rams with depth, stretch and growth resulted in Curlew Valley Suffolks' annual ram sale's average increasing by \$200 – on last year – to \$842 at Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, recently.

The stud's fifth sale resulted in a full clearance of four stud rams and 36 performance-recorded rams to a top of \$1400.

"I believe these are the best-muscled sale rams I have produced to date," stud principal Rachel Chirgwin said.

"They've got lots of stretch and good meaty hindquarters."

She said a client commented that it was the best-presented sale he had attended on KI this season, with a "very good quality" sale team.

In a cracking start, the first 14 lots sold at \$1000 or more.

The \$1400 top-price ram was knocked down to Quentin Anderson, Kangari Springs, Wisanger, KI. The 15-month-old ram had received a merit award in a strong class of 16 rams at last month's Royal Adelaide Show, and formed part of Curlew Valley's third-placed breeder's pair and sire's progeny group.

Weighing 85 kilograms at 10 months with an eye muscle depth of 39 millimetres, the Stradford Owain son hit the scales at 110kg at 14 months.

Two other stud rams from the same pen made \$1300 to an undisclosed buyer.

Six-year returning client,

Malcolm Shaffer, Lake Ada, D'Estrees Bay, KI, took two rams at \$1250 apiece, while R Clarke, Melrose, paid \$1000 for a ram through Quality Livestock Port Adelaide.

Volume buyers included G&G Lovering, Haines, KI, five to \$1050 averaging \$935, and locals DJ&ST Morris, KI, four to \$900.

Repeat client B Lockett, Jackadyl, D'Estrees Bay, KI, took three at a \$960 average, and new clients R&R Benney, Roo Lagoon, KI, averaged \$913 for two rams.

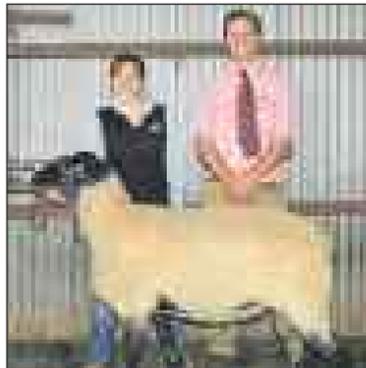
"Curlew Valley Suffolks are heading in the right direction with deep, stretchy rams with plenty of growth," sale agent Elders Kingscote auctioneer Paul Clifford said.

The 18 bidders included 10 new clients.

"I was very happy with the sale results and pleased to see many return clients, as well as a number of new buyers," Ms Chirgwin said.

On display were photos and information from her trip to Britain earlier this year to research Suffolk genetics, which she undertook as part of the Peter Olsen Fellowship for Young Farmers scholarship.

She has also just returned from a trip to Western Australia, where she found several rams which will be used for AI in this year's breeding season. These rams will join a sire recently bought from Broughton Lodge, which has impressive structure and positive EMD figures.



**SUFFOLK STAR:** Rachel Chirgwin, Curlew Valley Suffolks, Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island, holds the \$1400 top-price ram bought by Quentin Anderson, Kangari Springs, Wisanger, KI. Rachel is pictured with Elders Kingscote's Jack Coleman.

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**Monday, November 7th**  
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Interfaced on AuctionsPlus - contact: Martin & Jane Grimwade (03) 5784 1332

Updated information - [www.pertgenetics.com.au](http://www.pertgenetics.com.au)